

Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
Washington, D.C.
20591



COAST GUARD RESERVIST

CG
288

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. Coast Guard

Washington, D.C.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Vol. XVI, No. 8

JUNE 1969

RETIRED SERVICEMAN'S FAMILY PROTECTION PLAN

The increased benefits of the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP) of 13 August 1968 have been of much interest to many Reservists. In the past few months all members who retired without pay (having earned 20 or more years of Federal service satisfactory for paid retirement) have been sent information about the RSFPP by Commandant (RA). District commanders have sent similar data to all Ready and Standby Reservists 57 years of age and older who have 20 satisfactory years or can be expected to earn 20 satisfactory years before mandatory separation.

A number of married Reservists who will qualify for retired pay are apparently unaware of the small cost of providing a lifetime annuity for widows or widowers. Unless a Reservist is participating in RSFPP, his retired pay "dies" with him. There have been two instances in recent weeks where widows have telephoned Coast Guard Headquarters to ask why the Coast Guard had not issued monthly checks to them following their husbands' deaths. Unfortunately, neither Reservist had elected to participate in the plan. In the first case, the Reservist died after being entitled to only one check.

Correspondence from some Reservists would indicate that they are under the mistaken impression that by providing a pension for their surviving spouse equal to one-half their retired pay, that upon retirement, the Reservists will only receive half their retired pay. For example, consider a Reservist who is en-

titled to \$100 a month retired pay at age 60, is two years older than his wife, and before age 58 elected to provide her with 50% of his retired pay after his death. He would draw approximately \$81 a month until his death, and thereafter, until her death or remarriage, his widow would be paid \$50 a month. If the Reservist made a valid election prior to age 58 and has no spouse (because of death, divorce, or remaining single) at age 60, he or she will automatically receive the full retired pay. If the spouse dies before the Reservist, who has retired since 13 August 1968 with reduced pay, the deductions in the Reservist's retired pay check will automatically stop, and full monthly retired pay will be paid for the remainder of his or her life.

Reservists who retired with pay before 13 August 1968 and are participants in the plan but did not elect the "old option 4" (which provides for restoration of the full amount of retired pay when there are no longer any eligible beneficiaries during the Reservist's retirement) are being advised by Commandant (PS) that they have until 31 August 1969 to "buy in," so that they will be able to have full retired pay when there are no longer any eligible dependents.

Several Reservists are wisely naming their wives and unmarried children as eligible beneficiaries (option 3). In the majority of cases, by the time a Reservist is 60 years of age, his children are no longer eligible beneficiaries.

See RSFPP on page 2

ADMINISTRATION OF END-OF-COURSE AND SERVICEWIDE EXAMINATIONS

The responsibilities of the commanding officer, training officer, and proctor for the proper handling of the service-wide and end-of-course examinations cannot be overemphasized.

The handling, stowage, and accountability of tests for completion of correspondence courses or advancement are the ultimate responsibility of each commanding officer. The integrity of the Coast Guard examination system is of paramount importance if equal advancement opportunity is to be maintained. All echelons of command must be alert to prevent any unauthorized disclosure of the contents of service-wide and end-of-course examinations at any time. Commanding officers should continually review local examination custody procedures in order to ensure strict security and accountability of tests. Examinations should at all times be in the sole custody of a commissioned or warrant officer, except during actual administration.

Instructions are clearly printed on the envelopes in which the end-of-course and service-wide examinations are mailed and stated in Chapter 6 of the Administrative Manual for Coast Guard Reserve (CG-296). They should be strictly followed.

After reviewing end-of-course test answer sheets, it occasionally appears that the answers are not the efforts of an individual working alone; indicating

See EXAMS on page 2

EARNED IN VIETNAM

In SECNAVNOTE 1650 dated 19 March 1969, the Department of the Navy has announced the names of those Coast Guard cutters which have recently been awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for service in Vietnam.

NAME

DATES OF ACTION

Coast Guard Division THIRTEEN consisting of: 1 May '66—30 April '67

USCGC POINT CYPRESS (WPB-82326)
 USCGC POINT GRACE (WPB-82323)
 USCGC POINT HUDSON (WPB-82322)
 USCGC POINT JEFFERSON (WPB-82306)
 USCGC POINT KENNEDY (WPB-82320)
 USCGC POINT LEAGUE (WPB-82304)
 USCGC POINT PARTRIDGE (WPB-82305)
 USCGC POINT SLOCUM (WPB-82313)
 USCGC POINT WHITE (WPB-82308)
 USCGC POINT GAMMON (WPB-82328)
 USCGC POINT DUME (WPB-82325)
 USCGC POINT LOMAS (WPB-82321)

NAME

DATES OF ACTION

Coast Guard Squadron THREE consisting of: 24 April '67—1 December '67

USCGC YAKUTAT (WHEC-380)
 USCGC BARATARIA (WHEC-381)
 USCGC HALF MOON (WHEC-378)
 USCGC GRESHAM (WHEC-387)
 USCGC BERING STRAIT (WHEC-382)

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However, if a child is under 18 or in a full-time course of education between the ages of 18 and 23, he is entitled to monthly payments, as designated, between the date of the Reservist's death and the date of the child's marriage, leaving school, or 23rd birthday, whichever comes first. Also some parents have the misfortune to see their children become mentally or physically handicapped before age 18 and continue in such condition thereafter. Having elected option 2 (if there is no spouse) or 3 (if the spouse is living), the Reservist has provided well for his family. Of course, if all the children are married, over 18 and not incapacitated, or not in school between the ages of 18 and 23, there is no need to provide for them.

Reservists may file an application (CG 3490) Rev. 9-67 at any time after attaining 18 years longevity, but must do so if they desire to participate in sufficient time that the properly executed form is received at Coast Guard Headquarters before their 58th birthday. A Reservist may revoke his election or change it at any time prior to his 58th birthday.

A few Reservists who have not taken

advantage of RSFPP since it was initiated in 1953 and have signified a desire to do so now that they are beyond their 58th birthdates, are eligible to make a valid election, (change, or revocation) provided they postpone their retirement until at least 2 years have elapsed between date of election, change, or revocation, and commencement of retired pay status. By law, a valid election, change or revocation must be made two or more years prior to receipt of retired pay. Therefore, those Reservists who will first qualify for retired pay after age 60 may also file a valid form after their 58th birthday providing such application is made more than two years before actual retirement.

Questions concerning the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan will be answered in the revised information pamphlet (CG 360) now at the printers. However, if your 58th birthday will be in 1969, you may wish to make direct inquiry to the district commander (r) or (if retired) to the Commandant (RA) well before that date.

Reservists are reminded that their current mailing addresses must be on file, and that Commandant (RA) should be advised of any changes in address during retirement.

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that the examination was not properly administered. When the Coast Guard Institute detects a situation which suggests the possibility of improper administration, the appropriate district commander (r) is advised, and a request is made for the convening of an informal board of investigation.

Numerous investigations have determined that proctors for end-of-course tests frequently perform other duties while the tests are being administered, leave the examination room from time to time without relief, or are relieved by an individual not qualified to administer examinations. Obviously, if the proctor is concentrating on work of his own or leaves the examination room from time to time, some of the examinees may have the opportunity to view the answer sheet of another, discuss their answers orally, or perhaps even exchange answer sheets. Occurrences of each of these forms of collaboration have been documented.

When personnel are sitting for examinations and the tests are not properly monitored, all examinees are affected, and all answer sheets are invalidated. At the time when this issue went to press, 30 letters of satisfactory completion of correspondence courses were being withheld by the Coast Guard Institute pending the outcome of necessary investigations.

Individuals must do their own work. Proctors must follow the rules for correct administration of the examinations. Custodians are expected to provide adequate security for examinations both before and after the fact, and commanding officers are responsible for the complete action. The cooperation of all is expected to the end that non-productive administrative action is eliminated.

Policy Concerning EIOD and TAD Revised

Commandant Notice 1570 dated 8 April 1969 eliminates the use of Temporary Additional Duty (TAD) for the assignment of Reservists to other training units to perform drills that would have been missed at the parent training unit. Previously, TAD had been authorized when the member's occupation, temporary transfer of residence, or an emergency required his presence in a location beyond reason-

See EIOD and TAD on page 4



THE ADMIRAL'S CORNER

Since my remarks at the Coast Guard Section meeting of the Reserve Officers Association's 1969 Mid-Winter Conference in February, a few Reservists have expressed concern over some of the aspects of the Commandant's open letter which I read at the meeting and which was recently printed in the April 1969 issue of the *RESERVIST*.

Specifically, two questions have been raised. First, what is the basis for the new Selected Reserve figures, and, second, is it possible that the Reserve Training program has been singled out for special scrutiny?

To clarify any misunderstanding, I would like to answer these two questions by citing appropriate sections of the Commandant's first open letter which appeared in the February 1968 issue of the *RESERVIST*. Summarizing the reasons for the revised level of early-response personnel, Admiral Smith wrote, "Thus, although the concepts of war upon which the mobilization requirements of the Coast Guard Reserve have been based were valid in the late 40's and 50's, it is now clear that those concepts are not completely valid for the future. Accordingly, with the objective of seeing that the Coast Guard Reserve is and continues to be based on sound and up-to-date concepts of war, on mobilization tasks already assigned, and on any additional tasks which I believe the Coast Guard can and should logically perform, it is intended to subject the remaining mobilization tasks which generate a need for ready reserve personnel to the same careful scrutiny and to review our training concepts."

Later in the same letter of February 1968, the Commandant indicated that the Reserve Training Concepts and Force Analysis Study was conducted for the benefit of the entire United States Coast Guard, "In regard to the aforementioned studies relating to the Reserve Training program I want to assure you that this program has not been singled out for special scrutiny. As a factual matter, all Coast Guard mission areas are being subjected to more critical review and study in an

effort to insure a complete cost-effective operation and insure that all programs are updated to be able to meet clearly defined and better justified mission requirements. I am firmly convinced that the results of these studies will prove extremely beneficial to all of us in the Coast Guard family."

JOHN D. McCUBBIN

Officers Uniform Allowances

Title 37 United States Code, Sections 415-417 contain the statutory authority for monetary allowances toward the purchase and upkeep of uniforms of Reserve officers. In addition, the Comptroller General has made certain decisions as to the legal time of such payment. The criteria for entitlement and the format for applying for initial, maintenance, and additional uniform allowances are in chapter 12 of the Administrative Manual for Coast Guard Reserve (CG-296).

Initial uniform allowances of \$200 are payable to inactive duty warrant and commissioned officers of the Coast Guard Reserve if they have never been entitled under any law to a uniform allowance as an officer of the Navy, Coast Guard, or their Reserve components. In order to file a legal claim, a former enlisted man or person appointed from civilian status must have performed *in uniform* either 14 days of ACDUTRA, or 14 periods of inactive duty for training. For ex-regular Navy or Coast Guard officers there must be a lapse of two years between the resignation of their regular commissions and the commencement of the 14 qualifying periods of duty.

The basic requirement for eligibility for the \$50 uniform maintenance allowance is the completion of four satisfactory uniform years, a period of time commencing on the day following the date of entitlement to an initial uniform allowance or release from an extended period of active service. To be satisfactory these four years must meet three requirements. First, each uniform year must include 35 points, exclusive of gratuitous membership points, by duty requiring the wearing of the uniform. Second, at least 28 days of ACDUTRA, excluding any period of active service in excess of 90 days must be performed within the four uniform years. Finally, each of these four uniform years must begin and end in a satisfactory anniversary year.

In calculating the minimum 35 points needed annually, it is permissible to

credit both INACDUTRA and ACDUTRA periods. However, to satisfy the requisite of 28 days of ACDUTRA, only ACDUTRA points may be credited. When the uniform is authorized but not required for officers attending Naval Reserve Officers School or Volunteer Training Unit meetings, the points earned at such drills do not qualify the wearer for a satisfactory uniform year.

The third requirement for the uniform maintenance allowance is frequently misunderstood because a uniform year and an anniversary year rarely coincide. Since each uniform year must begin and end in a satisfactory anniversary year, an officer may find that an unsatisfactory anniversary year in which he received less than 50 points will invalidate the uniform year ending in that anniversary year and the subsequent uniform year as well. Furthermore, since the fourth qualifying uniform year must end in a satisfactory anniversary year, the points for the anniversary year must be tallied before payment can be authorized. For example, for officers who were paid an initial uniform allowance three and one-half months (14 drills) after commissioning, the anniversary year would not end until eight and one-half months after the end of the fourth qualifying uniform year.

Additional uniform allowances of \$100 are payable for duty requiring the wearing of the uniform under orders specifying a call to more than 90 days of active service, provided the claimant had not been entitled to an allowance of \$100 or more within the preceding two years or had not been released from an extended period of active service in the preceding two years.

If entitlement is properly established, payment for an additional uniform allowance may be made on presentation of the orders. Payment of an initial or maintenance uniform allowance is ordinarily paid with the drill check of the month following certification of such entitlement by Commandant (RA).

By carefully checking dates and points before submitting a claim, officers can eliminate unnecessary correspondence due to premature applications.

Reserve Directives

28 March 1969—Inactive Reserve Officer Selection Board—COMDTNOTE 1401

8 April 1969—Equivalent Instruction or Duty (EIOD) and Temporary Additional Duty (TAD) for Inactive Reservists; revised policy concerning—COMDTNOTE 1570



WELL DONE—PSC J. GILL (right) presents a retirement gift to RDC G. BOYER (center), as LCDR A. K. HOUNSLEA, the Commanding Officer of ORTUPS (O) 03-82272, New London, Connecticut, looks on. Chief BOYER retired after serving 21 years

with the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve, making 31 weather patrols, and helping train 950 radarmen as the assistant officer-in-charge of the Radarmen School at the Coast Guard Training Center when it was located at Groton, Connecticut.

COAST GUARD ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS

Many Reservists undoubtedly have friends and relatives who will be starting their senior year in high school and investigating educational and career opportunities.

It is felt that members of the Coast Guard Reserve would like to insure that these students are aware of the excellent educational and worthwhile career opportunities available through the United States Coast Guard Academy. Coast Guard cadets obtain an excellent undergraduate education at no personal cost and, in addition, receive pay and allowances fully adequate to fulfill all their ordinary living expenses. The Academy curriculum offers engineering, liberal arts, and professional subjects, with a choice of either an engineering-science, social science, or ocean science-oceanography emphasis. Graduates are awarded a Bachelor of Science degree and are commissioned as Ensign in the United States Coast Guard.

Unlike the other Armed Forces Service Academies, the United States Coast Guard Academy tenders appointments solely on the basis of an annual nationwide competition. The factors utilized in the competition are College Entrance

Examination Board test scores, high school class standing, and the Cadet Candidate Evaluation Board rating. There are no congressional appointments or geographical quotas.

Applicants must be high school graduates between the ages of 17 and 22, citizens of the United States, and of good moral character. They must be unmarried and have never been married. Furthermore, an applicant must be in excellent physical condition, between 64 and 82 inches in height, with proportionate weight, and have at least 20/40 visual acuity in each eye correctable to 20/20, with normal color perception. The Superintendent has the authority to waive visual acuity up to 20/100 in each eye correctable to 20/20 for a limited number of young men who exhibit outstanding academic or leadership potential.

The next annual competition for appointment to the United States Coast Guard Academy will commence with the 6 December 1969 administration of the College Entrance Examination Board tests. This is the last CEEB test result which will be accepted for evaluation for the Class of 1974. Successful applicants will report to the Academy in June 1970. Interested candidates should make their own arrangements to participate in the following CEEB tests:

A. Scholastic Aptitude Test

1. Verbal Section
2. Mathematical Section

B. Achievement Tests

1. Mathematics Level I or Level II
2. English Composition

Persons interested in applying should write to the Director of Admissions, U. S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut 06320, to obtain a copy of the Coast Guard Academy Bulletin of Information, (CG-147). This booklet contains detailed information about the Academy and necessary Coast Guard application forms.

EIOD and TAD from page 2

able commuting distance of the parent unit.

Equivalent Instruction or Duty (EIOD) may be performed to make up certain unexcused absences resulting from conditions beyond the individual's control. Commanding officers of ORTU's may authorize not more than four periods of EIOD for members of their units within any one anniversary year. The conditions under which this duty may be authorized are listed in the directive cited above. District commanders may authorize EIOD for commissioned and warrant officers for travel necessary to employment, including short term civilian schools, which would require the individual to be beyond reasonable commuting distance of his parent training unit on the scheduled date of a drill. District commanders may authorize additional periods of EIOD only for the purpose of providing the opportunity for individuals to attend short term civilian schools or training courses.

All EIOD shall be performed under individual written orders, with the original of the completed orders and the USCGR INACDUTRA Card, Form CG-4456, being forwarded to Coast Guard Headquarters so that retirement point data can be entered into the centralized accounting system.

The Coast Guard RESERVIST

Published monthly in Washington, D.C., by the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard. Reference to directives, regulations, and orders is for information only and does not by publication herein constitute authority for action. Inquiries about the Coast Guard Reserve should be addressed to the Commandant (R), Coast Guard Headquarters Sta. 2-0, 1300 E St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20591.

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LTJG W. H. SCHMIDT

Editor

All photographs are official Coast Guard material unless otherwise designated.